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Resolved, That the thanks of the Academy be presented to Dr. Ruschenberger for the labor he has bestowed in the preparation of the able and faithful Notice read by him before the Society, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same to the Committee on Proceedings for publication.

Resolved, That a Committee of three members be appointed to communicate the foregoing Resolutions to Dr. Ruschenberger.

Committee, Mr. Vaux, Dr. Bridges and Mr. Pearsall.

The Rev. Mr. Langstroth read a paper entitled, "On the impregnation of the eggs of the Queen Bee;" which being intended for publication in the Proceedings, was referred to Dr. Leidy, Dr. Le Conte and Dr. Fisher.

Dr. Le Conte presented for publication in the Proceedings, the following papers: "Hints towards a Natural Classification of the family Histrini of Coleopterous Insects;" "Synopsis of the Parnidæ of the United States;" "Synopsis of the Eucnemidæ of Temperate North America;" all of which were referred to the following Committee: Dr. Bridges, Dr. Leidy and Dr. Elwyn.

A letter was read from the Librarian of the British Museum, dated Jan. 19th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of No. 10, Vol. 5, of the Proceedings.

Also a letter from the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, dated April 20th, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of No. 12, Vol. 4, and No. 1, Vol. 5, of the Proceedings.

And a second letter from the same, of same date, accompanying copies of the Transactions and Bulletin of that Institution for 1849 and '50.

Dr. Leidy presented, for the inspection of the members, an interesting specimen of a fossil turtle, from the collection of Dr. D. D. Owen, made in Nebraska territory, and sent to him, for examination, by the Smithsonian Institute. It proves the existence of a species distinct from any of those before described from the same region, for which the name *Emys Culbertsonii* is proposed. Its measurements are as follows:

Length of the five vertebral scutes, . . .	17	inches.
Transverse breadth of carapace in curve, . .	22	"
Height, ...	6¼	"
Length of middle vertical scute, . . .	3	"
Breadth " " . . .	4	"

Mr. Phillips announced that the collection of Minerals of the late Mr. Gilmore, of Baltimore, was for sale.

February 17th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read from the Secretary of the Trustees of the New York State Library, acknowledging the receipt of No. 12, Vol. 5, of the Proceedings, and of a copy of Dr. Meigs' Memoir of Dr. Morton.

From the Geological Society of London, dated June 24th and Nov. 6th, 1851, returning thanks for copies of late Nos. of the Proceedings.

Mr. Vaux, on behalf of the Committee on the subject, read a communication from Dr. Ruschenberger, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 1852, in reply to the letter from the committee, enclosing a copy of the Resolutions adopted at the last meeting in relation to his "Notice of the Academy."

Dr. Leidy directed the attention of the members to several fossils lying on the table, which belong to the cabinet of the Academy.

One of them is a lumbar vertebra, without the epiphyses, and with the transverse processes and neural arch broken off, obtained from the Miocene of Virginia, and presented by Mr. T. Conrad. It belongs to a species of Delphinus, most probably extinct, for which the name *D. Conradi* is proposed, in honor of one who has done so much in American Palæontology. The epiphysial extremities of the vertebral body are pentahedral.

Length of vertebral body,	2⅛ inches.
Breadth of epiphysial extremities,	1¾ "
Breadth of base of transverse processes,	1⅓ "

The other specimens consist of an entire dermal scale and the half of a second, from the Green Sand formation of Mount Holly, New Jersey. These belong to some Crocodilian reptile of large size. They are deeply sculptured, but possess no carina, as in the existing Crocodiles. Possibly they may belong to the Saurian, characterized from some vertebræ under the name of Cimoliasaurus magnus* *Leidy*, but at present I prefer referring them to a new genus and species under the name of *Thoracosaurus*† *grandis*.

Long diameter of the entire scale,	3½ inches.
Short "	3 "
Greatest thickness,	7 lines.

Mr. Langstroth made a few observations on the specimens of royal cells of the Bee, presented by him this evening.

Dr. Le Conte offered the following observations:

On the Difference between Primordial Races and Introduced Races.

A want of power to discriminate between permanent varieties developed in species and primordial forms, has been a prolific source of confusion in all discussions regarding the plural origin of species. I propose to examine here into some differences which, so far as I am able to learn, will form a certain basis for this distinction, so much to be desired; and which, should they be found, on farther examination, to have the universal character which I am inclined to give them, may have the effect of saving the world much of the muddy philosophy, which seems to be the favorite style of ethnological writers.

The principle which I am about to lay down, is founded on the unchangeability of certain characters, throughout an entire genus; these characters are connected with the structure of the external parts, and may seem at first to be of but slight importance, yet generally, on close examination, they will be found more or less intimately connected with the functions which the animal is destined to perform in the system of nature.

Now, it is a singular fact, that all the varieties of domestic animals and plants, which can be clearly shown to have originated in unmixed breeds, differ from their parent stocks by characters which, except in the case of these, so to speak, *artificial varieties*, are unchangeable in the genus. Thus, these artificial varieties would seem to differ from their parent stocks, not by characters which are of specific value, but by those which are of incomparably greater importance, and which, if not accompanied by identical organization in all other organs, would widely separate the beings which possess them from their parents. In many instances the characters possessed by the artificial varieties, are absolutely impossible in the plan on which the genus, or even the order, is created.

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* Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. vol. v, p. 325.

† θωϱηξ a coat of mail.

Instances of such permanent varieties may be readily recalled by every one; some of the most familiar are: the hornless variety of domestic cattle; the tailless variety of domestic cat, found in the Isle of Man; the long-haired cat, known as the Angora, or Persian cat; the various forms of fowls with additional toes, and without tails; the varieties of pigeons and fowls with uncouth and distorted arrangement of plumage.

The origin of some of these is lost in the depths of the past, while others are continually being introduced.

In all the examples cited above, it will be found that the monstrosity depends on the loss of a character belonging to every species of the genus or tribe to which the parent stock belongs, or on the assumption of a character not found in any species or genus of that group.

In the case of the hornless cattle, the part wanting, if not entirely coextensive with the order of ruminants, is at least essential to the genus Bos.

In the anomalously feathered varieties of fowls and pigeons, the animal assumes structures either unknown in the groups to which it belongs, or else (as in the case of the 'ruffler') entirely impossible in any species of bird whatever.

The novelty in this principle is, that in the disputed cases of plural origin, the slightness of the unchangeable differences, found in different races, becomes a very strong, and, indeed, an invincible argument against the supposition that they have been derived from each other by the operation of external or internal causes.

The advocates of the single origin of man or of dogs, are therefore in the unpleasant predicament of having proved too much, since the difference between the latter, on comparison with undeniable distinct wild species of wolf and fox, are in those characters which alone can manifest specific distinction.

In the case of man the differences are in such particulars as alone could be changed without degrading him from his place at the head of the organic world.

It is almost needless for me to add that this principle extends to the vegetable kingdom, as every one will at once see in greenhouse and domestic plants, that the cultivated varieties are distinguished from each other by important structural differences, not recognized in the genera to which they belong.

In all species or races there are individual differences of less importance than specific characters, which by care may be isolated, and form what are apparently races. Thus snub noses almost invariably reproduce snubs; aquiline noses, in the same way, continue in families for numbers of generations. Yet, not to speak of the unimportance of such marks, these cases may be distinguished by the frequency with which exceptions occur. The numerous varieties of cultivated fruits come under this head.

February 24th.

Vice President **Bridges** in the Chair.

The Committee to which was referred the following papers by Dr. Le Conte, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings:

Hints towards a Natural Classification of the Family HISTRINI *of Coleopterous Insects.*

By JOHN L. LE CONTE, M.D.

It is rarely that any subject treated by the illustrious Erichson is found capable of improvement. It is therefore with reluctance and hesitation that after a minute study of the North American species of Hister, I find myself under the

ERRATA IN VOL. VI.

Page 2, line 4 from bottom, for *of* read *and*.
" 3, " 13 " top, for *Cretacean* read *Cetacean*.
" 33, " 13 and 20 from bottom, for *Nipongue* read *Mpongue*.
" 36, " 26 from top, for *undeniable* read *undeniably*.
" 40, " 19 " bottom, for *interstialis* read *interstitialis*.
" 45, " 5 " top, for *thorace* read *thorax*.
" 46, " 18 " bottom, for *simplicibus* read *fulcrantibus*.
" 48, in division (*b*) of Eucnemis, for *serratæ* read *pectinatæ*.
" 66, " 10 from top, for *is* read *are*.
" 114, " 2 " bottom, for *fulvis* read *fulvus*.
" 141, " 9 " bottom, for *generus* read *genus*.
" 149, in note (†) for *fr* read *für*.
" 150, the three lines of the diagnosis of Cephennium corporosum have lost the initial letters: to the first add 1, to the second *pl*, to the third *a*.
" 171, line 2 from bottom, for *Africa* read *America*.
" 174, " 22 " top, for *inferior* read *anterior*.
" 180, for *Homolosaurus* read *Homalosaurus*.
" 181, for *Pituophis* read *Pityophis*.
" 229, line 21 from top, for *Anchytursus* read *Anchytarsus*.
" " " 40 " top, for *picea* read *brunneus*.
" 231, after Tostegoptera, for *Edwards* read *Blanchard*.
" 241, line 15 from top, for *Enbradys* read *Eubradys*.
" 302, line 13 from top, for 1859 read 1849.
" 327, " 31 " top, for *læniata* read *tæniata*.
" 329, " 22 " top, for *parvus* read *parvulus*, vide p. 414.
" " " 26 " top, for *Fern* read *Kern*.
" 337, " 31 " top, for *Fauna* read *Faunas*.
" 368, " 12 " top, for *Traünfeld* read *Fraünfeld*.
" " " 29 " top, for *truncates* read *truncatus*.
" 377, top line, for —— read *and*.
" 376, line 17 from bottom, for *Prisidon* read *Prisodon*.
" 403, " 2 " bottom, for *Lyceum* read *State Library*.
" 439, " 17 " bottom, for *Agryppus* read *Agrypnus*.
" 454, " 9 " bottom, for *Endomochydæ* read *Endomychidæ*.
" lxviii, line 22 from bottom, add *Mr. T. A. Conrad*.
" lxxiv, line 17 from top, for *Vorselemque* read *Vorlesungen*.

The following omissions of donations to the Library, August 10th, 1852, occurred at page xxxiii:

Description of a Skeleton of the Mastodon giganteus, of North America. By John C. Warren, M. D. 4to. From the Author.

Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah. By Howard Stansbury, Capt. U. S. Topograph. Eng. 8vo. and map. From Col. J. J. Abert.

Experimental Researches in Electricity, 29th series. By Michael Faraday, Esq. From the Author.

On the Physical Character of the Lines of Magnetic Force. By Michael Faraday, Esq. From the Author.

Zoology of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, (extracted from Capt. Stansbury's Report.) From Prof. S. F. Baird.

Geognostische Wanderungen im Gebiete der nordöstlichen Alpen. Von Carl Ehrlich. From the Author.

Ueber die nordöstlichen Alpen. Von Carl Ehrlich. From the Author.